

Histrionicus histrionicus (Harlequin Duck)

Priority 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Aves (Birds)

Order: Anseriformes (Waterfowl)

Family: Anatidae (Waterfowl)

General comments:

Population improving, restricted distribution, high vulnerability. More than 50% of the eastern North American population winter along the outer coast of Maine, more than 90% of the eastern NA population winters within USFWS Region 5 and the Canadian Maritime Provinces (Sea Duck Joint Venture - Species Status Review).

Species Conservation Range Maps for Harlequin Duck:

Town Map: [Histrionicus histrionicus Towns.pdf](#)Subwatershed Map: [Histrionicus histrionicus_HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation:

Maine Status: Threatened

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern: NA

Recent Significant Declines: NA

Regional Endemic:

Histrionicus histrionicus's global geographic range is at least 90% contained within the area defined by USFWS Region 5, the Canadian Maritime Provinces, and southeastern Quebec (south of the St. Lawrence River).

Notes: Wintering population

High Regional Conservation Priority:

Northeast Endangered Species and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee:

Risk: No, Data: Yes, Area: No, Spec: Yes, Warrant Listing: Yes, Total Categories with "Yes": 3

High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA

Understudied rare taxa: NA

Historical: NA

Culturally Significant: NA

Habitats Assigned to Harlequin Duck:

Formation Name Intertidal

Macrogroup Name

Intertidal Bedrock

Habitat System Name: High Intertidal ****Primary Habitat**** Notes: feeding and hauloutHabitat System Name: Low-Intertidal ****Primary Habitat**** Notes: feedingHabitat System Name: Mid-Intertidal ****Primary Habitat**** Notes: feeding and haulout

Macrogroup Name

Intertidal Mollusc Reefs

Habitat System Name: Gastropod Reef ****Primary Habitat**** Notes: feedingHabitat System Name: Mussel Reef ****Primary Habitat**** Notes: feeding

Formation Name Subtidal

Macrogroup Name

Subtidal Mollusc Reefs

Habitat System Name: Gastropod Reef

Habitat System Name: Mussel Reef

Macrogroup Name

Subtidal Pelagic (Water Column)

Habitat System Name: Nearshore Notes: loafing habitat

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Stressors Assigned to Harlequin Duck:

Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability		Moderate Severity	High Severity
	Highly Actionable	Medium-High	High
	Moderately Actionable	Medium	Medium-High
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low	Low

IUCN Level 1 Threat

Biological Resource Use

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Highly actionable

Notes: Activities can alter habitat and behavior

IUCN Level 1 Threat

Pollution

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Industrial and Military Effluents

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately actionable

Notes: Oil spill from tankers and other ships using shipping lanes located near harlequin habitats, may be prevented by changing location of shipping lanes. Impacts may be reversed or minimized with clean up efforts and compensation.

IUCN Level 1 Threat

Climate Change and Severe Weather

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Habitat Shifting or Alteration

Severity: Severe

Actionability: Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Loss of offshore habitats due to sea level rise, may be mitigated through protection of upland areas that will allow intertidal areas to migrate inland.

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Temperature Extremes

Severity: Severe

Actionability: Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Loss of invertebrate prey base due to increase in ocean temperatures.

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Harlequin Duck:

**Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

Conservation Action

Category: Habitat Management

Biological Priority: critical

Type: new

Continue to work with the Maine Department of Marine Resources to coordinate macroalgae harvest in important wintering sites and determine the level of impact on wintering birds

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

Guild Level Conservation Actions:

This Species is currently not attributed to a guild.

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

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Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.